



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

AVIAN AND PANDEMIC INFLUENZA  
MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE UNIT

Situation Update #30

March 13 - 17, 2006

**H5N1 AVIAN INFLUENZA THREAT – NUMBERS AT A GLANCE**

Country	Human Cases 2003–2005	Human Cases 2006	TOTAL
Cambodia	4 cases, 4 deaths	0 cases, 0 deaths	4 cases, 4 deaths
China	8 cases, 5 deaths	7 cases, 5 deaths	15 cases, 10 deaths
Indonesia	17 cases, 11 deaths	12 cases, 11 deaths	29 cases, 22 deaths
Iraq	0 cases, 0 deaths	2 cases, 2 deaths	2 cases, 2 deaths
Thailand	22 cases, 14 deaths	0 cases, 0 deaths	22 cases, 14 deaths
Turkey	0 cases, 0 deaths	12 cases, 4 deaths	12 cases, 4 deaths
Vietnam	93 cases, 42 deaths	0 cases, 0 deaths	93 cases, 42 deaths
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>144 cases, 76 deaths</b>	<b>33 cases, 22 deaths</b>	<b>177 cases, 98 deaths</b>

*Source: WHO laboratory-confirmed cases as of March 13, 2006*

**NEW NEWS**

- First human H5N1 deaths suspected in Azerbaijan: The Ministry of Health in Azerbaijan report three fatal human cases of infection with the H5 subtype of avian influenza (AI) virus. Initial confirmation of H5 infection was provided in a mobile field laboratory operated by the US Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU-3) based in Cairo, and samples will be sent to the WHO reference laboratory in the United Kingdom for verification. H5N1 is the only H5-subtype influenza strain known to cause human infections, so it is highly likely that the deaths were due to the H5N1 strain.
- Five more countries report AI animal outbreaks: In the past week, H5N1 has been confirmed by the World Organization for Animal Health in bird and poultry populations for the first time in Cameroon, Burma, and Sweden. Danish officials also reported that H5N1 was detected in a buzzard just south of Copenhagen, and the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Afghanistan reported confirmation of H5 outbreaks in poultry that are likely to be confirmed as the H5N1 strain.
- New H5N1 poultry outbreaks reported in Malaysia: On March 16, Malaysian officials reported two additional outbreaks of H5N1 in poultry farms in the northern state of Perak. Officials said bird culling had begun within about a 1,100-yard radius around the areas where the cases were detected.

**NEW USAID ACTIONS**

- Support for outbreak response in Afghanistan: In response to the confirmation of poultry infected with H5 virus by an Afghan laboratory, USAID authorized the immediate deployment of 2,000 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) for use by first responders.
- USAID response to Cameroon outbreak: USAID quickly authorized 2,000 sets of PPE for deployment to assist in response efforts, and provided extensive communications materials that have been shared with Peace Corps and UNDP. USAID is working to provide additional support for rapid response activities in Cameroon. Communications materials have also been shared with UNICEF to support the mass communication campaign aimed at reducing the risk of human exposure.
- USAID providing additional support for rapid response in Nigeria: USAID has sent an animal health expert to Nigeria to support ongoing containment and response efforts. A logistics advisor for the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance has also been deployed to help with the distribution of U.S. commodities including PPE.
- Public outreach support in Niger: A USAID-supported communications specialist has been sent to work with the Government of Niger on priorities for community outreach on AI. USAID is also sending PPE to support response efforts.

- Communications and rapid response activities in Egypt: USAID is working with the Government of Egypt to develop communications and education activities and a communications strategy for AI. The Agency has also assisted in the development of rapid response teams for AI at both central and governorate levels.
- Through FAO, USAID assists in Burma outbreak response: Between March 17-19, a team of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), WHO, USDA, and USAID experts will travel to the area near Mandalay where the H5N1 outbreak occurred. The team will deliver PPE and disinfectant along with 50 backpack sprayers and some biocontainers for shipping samples for testing. The team will also assess the disease situation, outbreak response, needs for support, other donor assistance currently provided, and the possible role for donors.
- Continued support in Azerbaijan: USAID has sent rapid test kits and other essential supplies for rapid response to Baku to support national response efforts. USAID's agricultural development project, implemented by Pragma, has printed and distributed leaflets on AI to target populations and has adapted television public-service announcements (PSAs) from those originally developed by USAID in Ukraine. These PSAs are now playing on Azeri television. USAID is also preparing funds to provide essential training, technical assistance, and commodities to improve Azerbaijan's ability to conduct human and animal surveillance and public information campaigns.
- USAID ahead of the curve in Moldova: Although H5N1 has not been reported in Moldova, outbreaks in other countries in the region have prompted the country to take early precautions. To support these efforts, USAID has begun a prevention and public awareness campaign in Moldova, which targets rural areas and audiences ranging from small farmers to school children.

#### ***UPCOMING ACTIONS***

- Ensuring effective program management: USAID's E&E Missions will meet in Bucharest, Romania from March 28-30 for the E&E Regional Avian Influenza Preparedness Meeting. Washington and field-based staff will agree on management principles and processes, share lessons learned and technical expertise, and will coordinate with invitees from other partner agencies/organizations. USAID Missions in Asia and the Near East met in Jakarta and in Bangkok earlier this month, and similar regional meetings will be held in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean in the coming weeks.